

REMARKS

Applicants affirm the election of the invention of Group III, claims 8-17. Withdrawn claims 1-7 and 18-21 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 22-33, also in Group III, have been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested in view of the following remarks.

Turning to the § 103 rejections at pages 3-5 of the Office Action, Applicants submit that Aegerter and Wirth et al. are not prior art under § 103(c) ("the common ownership exception"). The subject matter disclosed in these references, and the claimed invention, were, at the time the invention was made, under an obligation of assignment to Semitool, Inc., and the references qualify as prior art only under § 102(e). Accordingly, the § 103 rejections are no longer applicable.

Additionally, as page 4 of the Office Action states, Grieger et al. fails to teach rotating a workpiece while the workpiece is immersed. Additionally, Grieger et al. fails to teach immersing the back side and the edge of the workpiece with a second processing fluid, such that the front side of the workpiece is not exposed to the second processing fluid. Indeed, Grieger et al. teaches a conventional immersion technique in which the entire workpiece is immersed during processing. As there is no suggestion in Grieger et al. to perform these steps, the claims are allowable.

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In view of the foregoing, all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is requested.

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